

A stylized illustration of space exploration. In the foreground, a large orange rocket with white boosters is angled upwards. A dark blue orbital path curves around a large, grey, cratered moon in the upper left. In the upper right, a small reddish-brown planet (Mars) is visible. The background is a dark blue space filled with white stars and a few larger, colorful starbursts (yellow, blue, and pink).

NASA Life Sciences Portal: Supporting Scientific Transparency and Reproducibility

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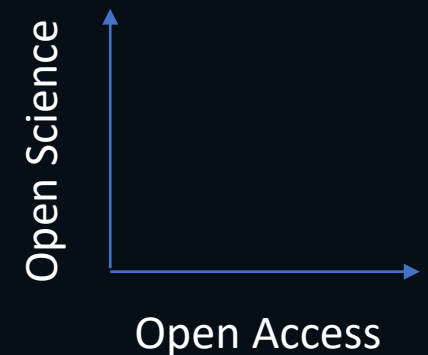
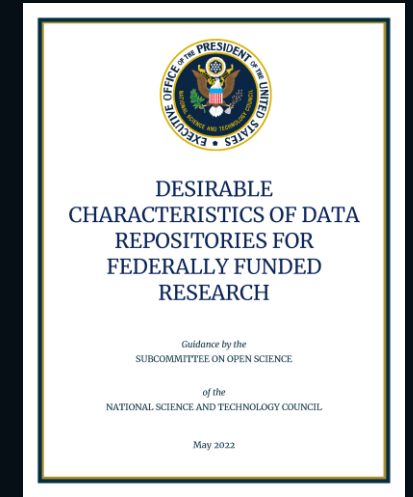
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NASA and Open Science

- Science cannot be termed “open” unless its conduct is transparent
 - Metadata transparency means conveying what was done clearly and uniformly
 - Unambiguous and richly annotated attributes, values
 - Community-developed and –maintained (open-source) terminology models
 - Data transparency means using open standards for data whenever possible
- Transparency enables scientific reproducibility
 - Data cannot be reproduced if the context in which it is generated is not well understood
- Open Science \neq Open Access
 - Open Science can be conducted and supported when:
 - Access to data and/or metadata is controlled
 - Subjects/samples are not identified/identifiable
 - Protocols, personnel, assay instruments, etc. are not (fully) revealed



Open Science and FAIR Systems

- Critical features of FAIR systems
 - Metadata standardization and harmonization
 - Linked data
- Foundational components for Open Science,
 - Enhance transparency of investigations
 - Facilitate scientific reproducibility.
- NASA biomedical repositories could improve their FAIR scores through:
 - The increased use of community-based standards for metadata
 - Ensuring more uniformity of metadata values within and across biomedical data systems
 - Capturing more correspondences between metadata (linked data)
 - “This specimen in this experiment is a sample of that organism in that experiment”
 - “This instrument used in this experiment is the same as that instrument used in that experiment”
 - Etc.

NLSP Plan for Increasing FAIR/Open Science Compliance

Low **FAIR** Compliance

Lack of Standard Metadata Metamodel

Lack of Standard Metadata Model

Lack of Standard Metadata Format

Lack of Data Identifiers

Lack of Data Licenses

Implement **ISA-tab** Metadata Metamodel

Develop and Deploy Open-source Metadata Model (**Ontologies**)

Implement the **ISA-tab** format standard

Implement DOI for Data Objects

Implement Licenses for Data Objects

Improved **FAIR** Compliance

Increasing FAIR Compliance: Rich Metadata

- Use of Reference Vocabularies obviate need for retrospective metadata harmonization
 - SMEs develop and maintain the vocabularies
 - Re-use existing where appropriate
 - Both data producers and data consumers have access to browse, search
- Use of “Object-oriented” Vocabularies supports data linking
 - XML/RDF/OWL ontologies can be used as highly-annotated and well-organized vocabularies
 - Ontologies have classes, instances, relations, and relationships (relations between instances)

Biomedical Investigation Ontologies

- OBO Foundry (~ 200 ontologies)
 - OBI Ontology for Biomedical Investigations
 - GO Gene Ontology
 - ENVO Environment Ontology
 - RBO Radiation Biology Ontology
- W3C
 - SOSA/SSN (Semantic Sensor Network)
 - TO Time Ontology
- NIH / NCBO (National Center for Biomedical Ontology) (1136 Ontologies, and counting)
 - NCBO Taxon: Ontological transformation of NCBI Taxonomy

Clinical Ontologies

- SNOMED CT OWL
- ICD 9, 10 OWL
 - and other WHO ontologies
 - See [Bioportal.bioontology.org](https://bioportal.bioontology.org) for more
- RxNORM
- LOINC
- ENVO
 - To characterize environments/exposures

Use of Ontologies for “Rich” Metadata

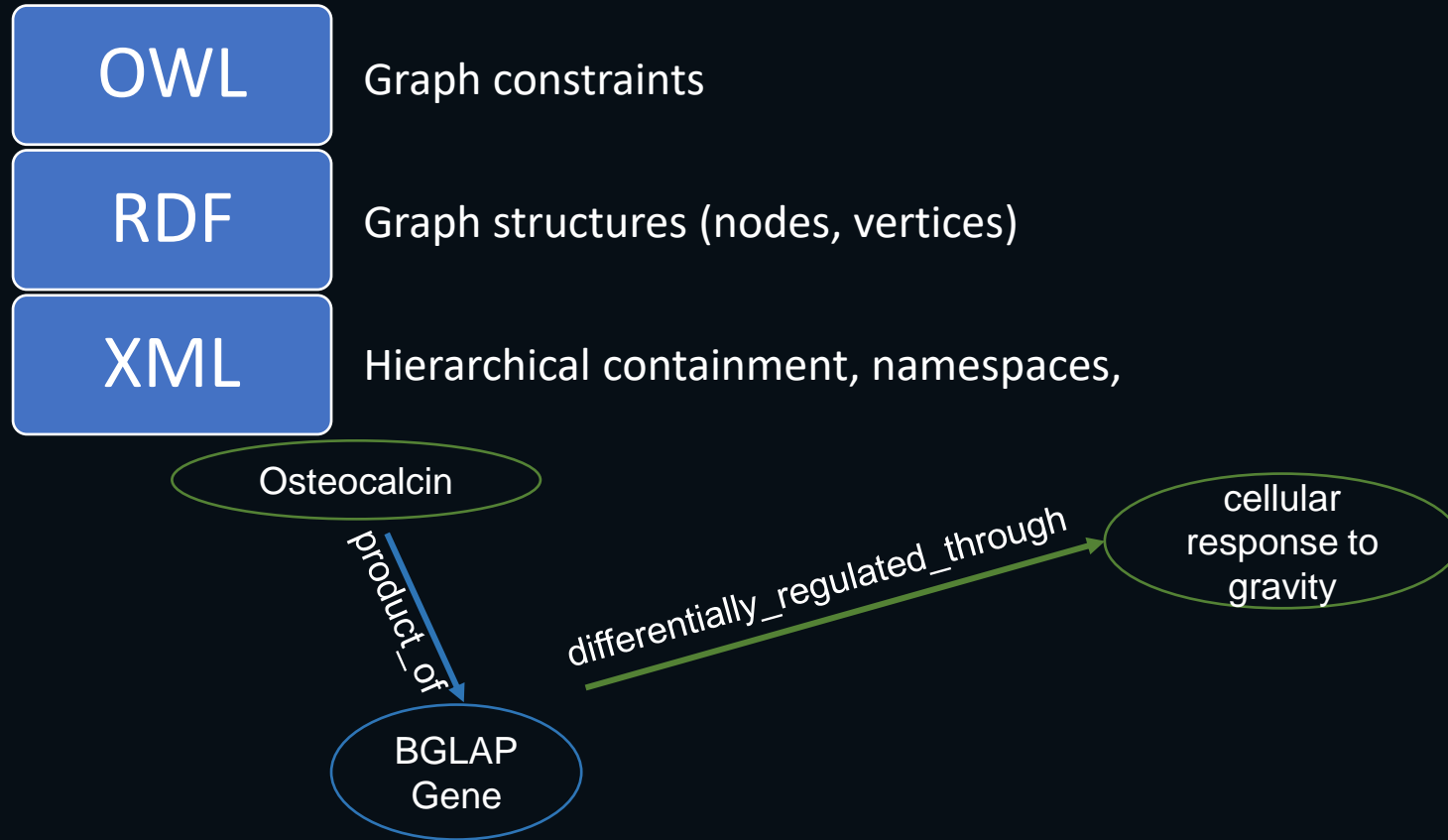
The screenshot displays the NASA Life Sciences Portal Record Viewer interface. The main record is titled "Influence of Spaceflight on Bone Cell Cultures" (TYPE: EXPERIMENT, SOURCE: LSDAPUBLIC). The record metadata includes fields for Experiment ID, Data Preservation Status, Experiment Title, Proposal Date, Managing NASA Center, Agency, Experiment Type, Discipline, and Principal Investigator.

On the right side, there are two panels showing ontology annotations:

- Protein Ontology (PRO):** This panel shows a search for the term "osteocalcin". The results include the Term IRI (http://purl.obolibrary.org/obo/PR_000030444), a definition, and a list of annotations such as `has_exact_synonym:BGLAP; BGP; gamma-carboxyglutamic acid-containing protein; bone Gla protein`.
- Gene Ontology (GO):** This panel shows the term "gene expression" (Accession: GO:0010467). The definition states: "The process in which a gene's sequence is converted into a mature gene product (protein or RNA). This includes the production of an RNA transcript and its processing, translation and maturation for protein-coding genes." It also includes a list of related terms and links to further information.

The main record's "Keywords" section lists several terms, including "Osteocalcin" and "Gene expression", which are highlighted with blue and green circles respectively. The "Hardware" section lists "Space Tissue Loss-A (STL-A) Module or Cell Culture Modul".

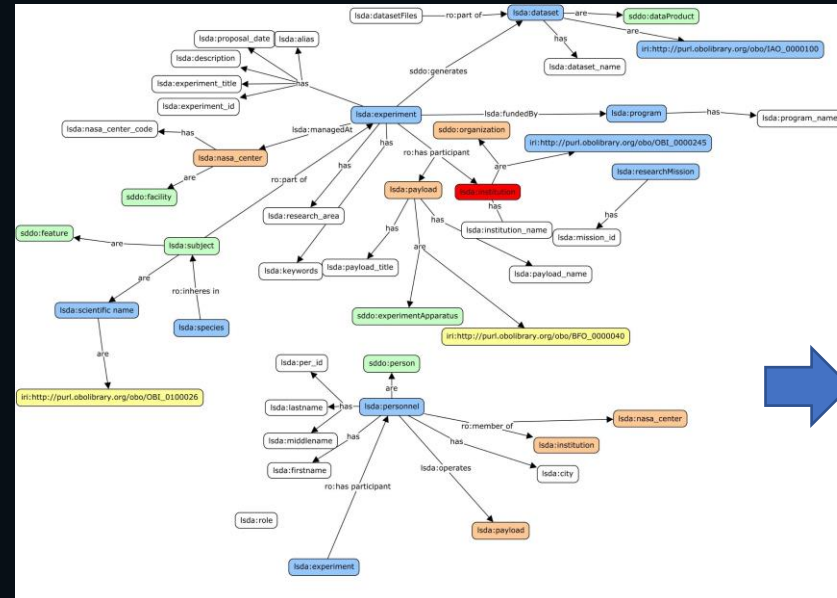
From Ontologies to Linked Data (Knowledge Graphs)



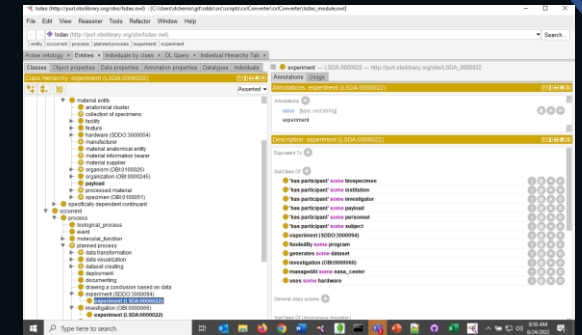
- RDF/OWL natively support logical property assertions for classes that connect *instances* through meaningful *links* to form graphs of knowledge

Life Sciences Data Archive Ontology

- An *application* ontology
- Contains
 - Classes
 - Properties/relationships
 - Inferred from the legacy LSDA
 - Contextualized within the Science Data Discovery Ontology
- Currently being enhanced with critical annotations and relationships not captured by the SDDO



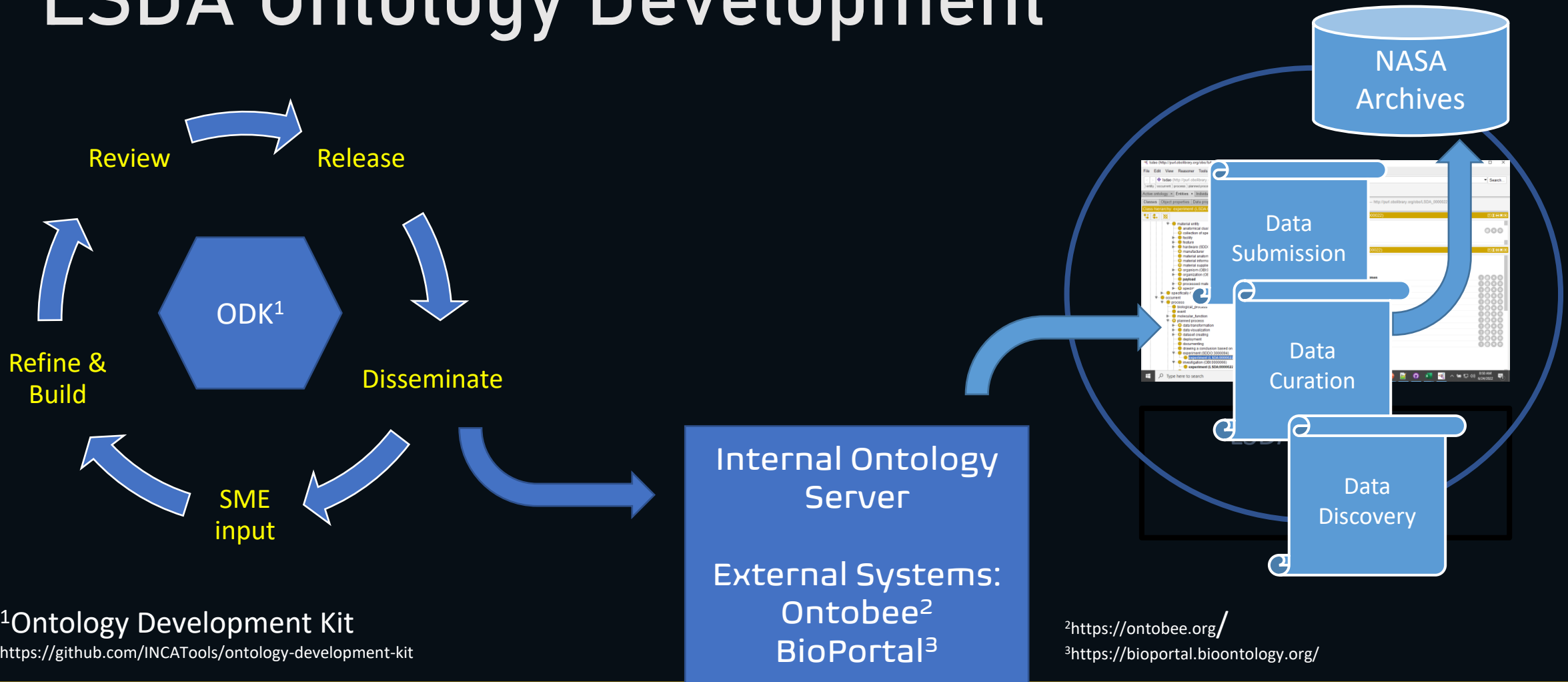
LSDA Ontology



LSDA Ontology

Hosted at: <https://github.com/nasa/LSDAO>

LSDA Ontology Development



Conclusions

- Efforts towards frameworks that support semantic harmonization and data linkage increase transparency of science and FAIR compliance
- The NASA life sciences repositories are working with the scientific research communities to develop and use knowledge resources such as
 - Metadata frameworks/models (e.g., ISATab)
 - Standard Vocabularies (like those that are part of OBO Foundry ontologies)
 - Citation and Licensing standards and services
- Future Work: NASA will develop FAIR compliance assessment and monitoring tools for these systems



Backup

FAIR Dashboard Development

- Requirements for a FAIR Dashboard are in work
- Dashboard should give broad overview of all data holdings and their range of FAIR Compliance
 - How many objects have DOIs? Of what types? What are the DOI management metrics? What are current DOI mgmt. issues?
 - How many Data objects have DOIs? Of what types? What are the DOI management metrics? What are current DOI mgmt. issues?
 - What % of Experiments have metadata issues wrt FAIR Metrics? What % of public-access Experiments?
 - What % of metadata values are “free text” vs. ontological references?

FAIR Workbench

Reusable: 64% complete

▶ Passed 37 checks out of 51 (informational checks not included).

▶ Warning for 8 checks. Please review these warnings.

▼ Failed 6 checks. Please correct these issues.

✖	A resource landing page url was not found.	?	Accessible	REQUIRED	FAILURE
✖	The entity distribution URL 'https://cn.dataone.org/cn/v2/resolve/urn:uuid:aa1f60c3-aaa1-41d7-939b-2f8236add525' was found (first of 86 URLs), but is not resolvable.	?	Accessible	REQUIRED	FAILURE
✖	These 1 proprietary data entity formats (out of 86 total formats) were found: application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.spreadsheetml.sheet	?	Reusable	REQUIRED	FAILURE
✖	A data quality description was not found.	?	Reusable	REQUIRED	FAILURE
✖	Provenance process step source code (software) was not found.	?	Reusable	REQUIRED	FAILURE
✖	A lineage source entity is not present.	?	Reusable	REQUIRED	FAILURE

▶ 0 informational checks.

- This dataset failed on 2 Accessibility and 4 Reusability Checks